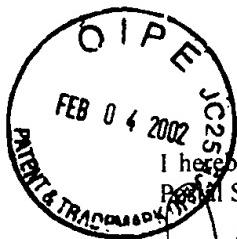


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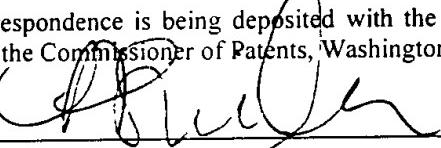


PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Date

Ayesha S. Wilks

January 4, 2002 
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal Attorney Docket No.: 501082.13 (98-0616.12)
Serial No. : 09/652,968 Group Art Unit : 2815
Filed : August 31, 2000 Examiner : Jose R. Diaz
Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicant wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references, as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, are enclosed). This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972.

Applicant also wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office that applications, Serial Nos. 09/652,994, 09/652,841, 09/652,993, 09/652,840, 09/652,842, 09/652,582, 09/652,583, 09/652,581, 09/652,714, 09/652,920, 09/654,027, 09/652,579, 09/653,121, and 09/652,580, describing and claiming subject matter that is similar to the subject matter of this application, were filed on August 31, 2000 in each instance. These related applications, which are divisional applications of above-referenced Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972, as well as any prior art cited therein, may be material to the examination of this application. The specification, claims, abstract and drawings of these related applications as filed are identical to those currently on file in the instant application as filed; therefore duplicate copies are not submitted herewith.

Applicant also wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office that an application, Serial No. 09/981,764, describing and claiming subject matter that is similar to the subject matter of this application, was filed on October 16, 2001. This related application, which is a continuation of above-referenced Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972, as well as any prior art cited therein, may be material to the examination of this application. The specification, claims, abstract and drawings of this related application as filed are identical to those currently on file in the instant application as filed, therefore a duplicate copy is not submitted herewith.

Although the above references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicant's duty to disclose all information he is aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicant believes that his invention is patentable.

A fee of \$180 is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any other fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1266. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Paul F. Rusyn
Registration No. 42,118

PFR:asw

Enclosures:

- Postcard
- Check
- Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)
- Copy of Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
- Form PTO-1449
- Cited References (10)

1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400

Seattle, WA 98101

Direct Dial (206) 903-8800

Facsimile (206) 903-8820